

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7405

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL QUEBEC

UNCLAS MONTREAL 424

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJ: COURT UPHOLDS CONSTITUTIONALITY OF QUEBEC LANGUAGE ACT

1. THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE QUEBEC SUPERIOR COURT UPHELD THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF THE QUEBEC LANGUAGE ACT ON APRIL 6, HOLDING THAT ARTICLE 93 OF THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION (THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACT) GUARANTEES ONLY RELIGIOUS RIGHTS IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION, NOT LANGUAGE RIGHTS. THE SUIT HAD BEEN BROUGHT BY TEN PROTESTANT SCHOOL BOARDS.

2. ALTHOUGH IT BELIEVED THAT THE DECISION WILL BE APPEALED TO THE SUPREME COURT OF CANADA, NO FIRM ANNOUNCEMENTS HAVE YET BEEN MADE AND IT MAY WELL BE THAT SOME OF THE PLAINTIFF BOARDS WILL OPT TO CUT THEIR FINANCIAL LOSSES AND LET ONE OR MORE OF THE OTHERS GO IT ALONE.

3. THE SUIT DID NOT REPEAT NOT CHALLENGE THE LEGALITY OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT (BILL 22) WHICH DEAL WITH THE LANGUAGE OF BUSINESS.
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